

Message Text

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ACTION EPA-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 SCI-06 CEQ-02 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 NSC-10 DOTE-00 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 NSF-04 SPC-03 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 090930Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7375

UNCLAS TOKYO 13092

PASS TO EB FOR KEMPE AND ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY FOR
FITZHUGH GREEN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, ETRN, JA, US

SUBJECT: COMPLIANCE WITH US AUTOMOBILE EMISSION STANDARDS

REF: (A) TOKYO 11728, (B) STATE 182925

SUMMARY: FONMIN REQUESTS CONSULTATIONS WITH DEPT ON JAPANESE
PROPOSAL FOR JAPANESE CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH US MOTOR
VEHICLE EMISSION STANDARDS. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT
AUTHORIZE EMBASSY TO INFORM GOJ THAT US PREPARED TO CONSULT
ON APPROACH TO EMISSION CONTROL STANDARDS AT EARLY DATE PRIOR
TO ANY FURTHER VISITS BY EPA INSPECTORS. END SUMMARY.

1. MASATSUNE KATSUNO (INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DIVISION, ECONOMIC
AFFAIRS BUREAU, FONMIN) CALLED EMBOFF IN FOR ANOTHER MEETING
AT WHICH HE PROPOSED SYSTEM OF JAPANESE CERTIFICATION OF
COMPLIANCE WITH US EMISSION CONTROL STANDARDS, WITH US FOLLOWING
SIMILAR SYSTEM WITH REGARD TO US VEHICLES EXPORTED TO JAPAN.
KATSUNO CHARACTERIZED THIS AS OFFICIAL JAPANESE REQUEST FOR
NEGOTIATIONS WITH DEPT. KATSUNO SAID THAT MITI'S APPROVAL
OF VISIT BY EPA INSPECTORS TO JAPANESE VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS,
WHILE NECESSARY, WAS NOT SUFFICIENT. APPROVAL OF "THE GOVERNMENT"
A(READ FONMIN) ALSO NEEDED TO ASSURE THAT SUCH INSPECTION BY
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US EPA NOT INSTANCE OF "EXTRA-TERRITORIALITY" ON PART US.

GOJ, HE SAID, HAD APPROVED RECENT EPA SURVEY ON EXCEPTIONAL BASIS, RESERVING RIGHT TO SEND A SIMILAR MISSION TO US TO INSPECT SIMILAR INFORMATION HELD BY US VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS.

2. GOJ WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS SETTING UP "SYSTEM OF MUTUAL APPROVAL", UNDER WHICH EACH SIDE'S OWN GOVT AUTHORITIES WOULD INSPECT ITS FACTORIES AND REPORT THE RESULTS TO THE OTHER SIDE FOR ACCEPTANCE. KATSUNO SAID THAT THESE DISCUSSIONS SHOULD START NOW, BEFORE EPA REQUESTS NEXT VISIT. IN FOLLOW-UP CALL, KATSUNO REEMPHASIZED URGENCY OF US RESPONSE TO MUTUAL APPROVAL PROPOSAL, MENTIONING POSSIBLE OECD DISCUSSIONS OF SIMILAR PROPOSALS IN NEAR FUTURE. KATSUNO STATED US RESPONSE TO GOJ PROPOSAL MIGHT AFFECT JAPANESE POSITION IN OECD DISCUSSIONS.

3. BENJAMIN R. JACKSON (CHIEF, NEW SOURCES BRANCH, MOBILE SOURCE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION, EPA; HEAD OF RECENT INSPECTION TEAM), INFORMED EMBOFF ON CONCLUSION OF INSPECTION VISIT THAT THIS VISIT SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED BUT THAT FOLLOW-UP INSPECTIONS WILL BE NECESSARY. JACKSON STATED CERTAIN REGULATIONS PROPOSED FEBRUARY 26, 1973, WOULD SOON BE PROMULGATED. EPA WOULD THEN INSPECT MANUFACTURERS AGAIN TO EDUCATE ON STANDARDS, THEN WOULD BE READY TO CONSIDER APPROACHES WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE NEED FOR EPA INSPECTION VISITS. HOWEVER, EMPHASIZING STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED EVERY YEAR SINCE INCEPTION, JACKSON STATED JAPANESE VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS, IN CONTRAST TO GOJ POSITION, WILL WANT EPA TO DO THE INSPECTION, TO AVOID RISK OF THEIR CARS' DIS-QUALIFICATION FOLLOWING ARRIVAL IN US.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: JAPANESE FONMIN CLEARLY SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER MATTER OF EPA INSPECTION VISITS TO JAPAN. EMBASSY URGES FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO FONMIN REQUEST FOR EARLY CONSULTATIONS ON SYSTEM OF MUTUAL CERTIFICATION.
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Draft Date: 09 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
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